Shifting of Konark Wheel

1628. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn into the news-item captioning "Inexplicable shifting of Konark Wheel" appearing in the Statesman of the 28th November, 1991; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the spending of such a huge amount for shifting the wheel?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shifting of Konark wheel to the main porch in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi involving specialised skill at a nominal cost of Rs. 54,000 was done in order to enable better exposure to visitors of this beautiful artefact.

Misuse of position for free Air Travel

1629. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn into a news item captioning "misuse of position for free air travel" appearing in The Times of India of the 20th November, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the charges against the Airport Manager of the International Airports Authority of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Indian Airlines found an employee of the International Airports Authority of India attempting to travel on a ticket and identity card provided to him by a private courier company. The Indian Airlines did not allow him to travel. The preliminary investigation conducted by IAAI revealed that the concerned employee had obtained an Indian Airlines flight ticket No. 231881 in his name from M/s. Patel On-Board Courier Ltd. for sector Bombay-Calcutta by Flight IC-274 of November 5, 1991. Based on the preliminary investigations, the officer has been placed under suspension.

New Tourist Spots During Seventh Plan Period

1630. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) detailed plans to make tourism more attractive; and

(b) new tourist spots identified during the Seventh Plan and details of action plan for their development?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Plan to make tourism more attractive in the country include improvement of infrastructural facilities, removal of constraints and impediments, promotion and publicity both in domestic and overseas markets etc.

(b) The identification of tourist spots and its development is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Department of Tourism have extended

financial assistance for strengthening of tourism infrastructure on specific proposals received from the State/ Union Territory Governments during the Seventh Plan.

Central Assistance for Tourism in Rajasthan

1631. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist complexes 3-5 star hotels, tourist reception centres, Beach Tourism, National Park Services, Institute of Water Sports etc. opened in Rajasthan with the financial assistance of the Central Government for the last two years and upto the end of October, 1991 indicating the total expenditure incurred each year on Tourist Infrastructure and provisions made during 1991-92;

(b) what are the names of places where they are situated and the Central assistance so far provided to them; and

(c) what is the number of proposals of Rajasthan Government which are at present under consideration of Union Government with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) During the last two years, the following amounts were sanctioned as Central assistance for development of Tourism in the State of Rajasthan:

Year	Amount Sanctioned
1989-90	Rs. 23.24 lakhs
1990-91	Rs. 152.34 lakhs

During the year 1991-92, upto end of October 1991 an amount of Rs. 14.10 lakhs has been sanctioned. These amounts were sanctioned for development of tourist complexes, wayside facilities, tourist reception Centres, water sports equipment, fairs and festivals and floating restaurant. There is no scheme for providing financial assistance for setting up of hotels.

For the Year 1991-92 an amount of Rs. 232.50 lakhs has been earmarked as Central assistance for the Govt. of Rajasthan.

(b) These places include Boondi, Swai Madhopur, Dholpur, Mahuwa, Kesarkayari Pushkar, Alwar, Pali, Tonk, Dausa, Jaisamand, Shahpur, Fatehgarh Sagar Lake, Phichola Lake, Gogonda, Jhalawar and Menal. The Central Assistance provided has been indicated at (a) above.

(c) At present 10 proposals received from the Govt. of Rajasthan for Central assistance are under consideration. These include tourist reception centre at Chittorgarh, Yatri Niwas at Ajmer, Yatrika at Nathdwara, Tourist Complex including Open Air Auditorium at Pushkar, Tourist Lodge at Balotra, Tourist Complex at Nagaur, Horse Safari, Flood Lightening of Chittorgarh Fort, Flood Lightening of Sajjangarh Fort and Air conditioning of midway at Behror.

India's Share in World Tourism Trade

1632. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 153 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1991 and state India's share in world tourism trade at present?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): As per the statistics available from the World Tourism Organisation, the percentage share of India in the world tourist traffic was about 0.4 per cent during 1990.